

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 3017
ANSWERED ON – 18/03/2026

DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN FOR SCHEDULED CASTES (DAPSC)

3017. SHRI CHANDRAKANT DAMODAR HANDORE

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

- (a) the types of schemes currently being implemented for the welfare of SC students, the details thereof, scheme-wise as per Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC);
- (b) the amount spent and lapsed on the said schemes annually during the last five years; and
- (c) whether Government is considering any scheme for increasing enrolment of SC/ST students in medical education, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)

(a) to (b) For Educational Empowerment of talented students from Scheduled Caste communities, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment implements various schemes for welfare and educational advancement of Scheduled Caste (SC) students under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC). The major schemes are as under:

1. Pre Matric Scholarship for SCs and Others.
2. Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Caste Students (PMS-SC).
3. Top Class Education for SC Students (TCS).
4. Free Coaching Scheme for SC and OBC Students (FCS).
5. National Overseas Scholarship for SC Students (NOS).
6. National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students (NFSC).

Centrally Sponsored 'Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs & Others' and 'Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Caste (SC) students are implemented through the State Governments/UT Administrations. Under these Schemes, scholarship is released directly into the Aadhaar seeded bank account of the beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. The release of Central share of scholarship is contingent upon State Governments/UTs Administrations to share the State/UT paid data to the National Scholarship Portal. These Schemes are open ended and demand driven subject to the budget outlay.

(i) Physical and Financial Achievements of Pre-Matric Scholarships Scheme for SCs & Others are as under:

Financial Year	CA released (Rs.in crore)	Number of Beneficiaries
2020-21	569.03	31,22,697
2021-22	570.18	32,38,399
2022-23	207.93	11,34,268
2023-24	446.64	21,29,540
2024-25	460.91	21,65,983

(ii) Physical and Financial Achievements of Post-Matric Scholarships Scheme for SC students are as under:

Financial Year	CA released (Rs. in crore)	Number of Beneficiaries
2020-21	4008.6	50,16,082
2021-22	1,930.38	30,25,136
2022-23	4,388.32	46,47,135
2023-24	5,475.42	47,38,578
2024-25	5,562.23	48,04,208

The release of Central share is contingent upon timely processing, verification and State share payment to the eligible applicants and further data transfer to the National Scholarship Portal for Central share disbursement.

Central Sector Umbrella Scheme namely "Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers (SHREYAS) for Scheduled Caste (SCs)" comprises 4 Central Sector Sub-schemes namely "Top Class Education for SCs", "Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs and beneficiaries of PM CARES Children", "National Overseas Scheme for SCs" and "National Fellowship for SCs". The details of these sub-Schemes, are as under:

Top Class Scholarship for SC students (TCS)

The Scheme aims at recognizing and promoting quality education amongst students belonging to SCs, by providing financial support. The Scheme covers SC students for pursuing studies beyond 12th Class. The scheme supports talented students pursuing higher education in 274 top class premier higher education institutions of the Country such as all the IIMs / IITs/ IIITs / AIIMs/ NITs/NIFTs/ NIDs/ IHMs/NLUs and other Central Government Institutions, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) A++ and A+ Accredited Institutions and Top 100 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Institutions. Thirty percent (30%) of slots allotted to the Institution are reserved for eligible SC girl students as per their inter-se merit.

Physical and Financial Achievements of the scheme of TCS for the past 5 years are as under:

Financial Year	Budget Estimate (Rs. in crore)	Revised Estimate (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crore)	Number of beneficiaries
2020-21	40.00	50.00	52.87	3118
2021-22	70.00	70.00	84.72	4544
2022-23	108.00	108.00	85.67	4171
2023-24	111.0	100.0	83.84	3969
2024-25	110.00	103.00	103.26	4538

Free Coaching for SCs, OBCs and beneficiaries of PM-CARES children Scheme (FCS):

The objective of the Scheme is to provide coaching of good quality for economically disadvantaged Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), and beneficiaries of PM CARES Children Scheme (included from FY 2024-25) to enable them to appear in competitive examinations for obtaining appropriate jobs in Public/Private Sector and/or for securing admission in reputed technical and professional higher education Institution. The scheme is being run through Dr. Ambedkar Centre of Excellence (DACE) established in 19 empanelled Central Universities. Also under each category, 30% of the slots shall be reserved for female candidates.

Physical and Financial Achievements of the scheme of FCS for the past 5 years are as under:

Financial Year	Budget Estimate (Rs. in crore)	Revised Estimate (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crore)	Number of beneficiaries
2020-21	30.00	30.00	11.96	2112
2021-22	50.00	30.00	14.98	1761
2022-23	47.00	27.00	18.41	558
2023-24	47.00	14.82	7.76	223
2024-25	35.00	18.00	17.68	2136

National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Scheme for SC etc. candidates

Under NOS, financial assistance is provided to facilitate the low income meritorious students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, De-notified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans category to obtain higher education viz., Master's degree or Ph.D. courses by studying abroad thereby improving their economic and social status. Total slots allotted under the scheme annually is 125, out of which 115 slots are reserved for students belonging to Scheduled Caste, 06 slots are reserved for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes and 04 slots for Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans candidates. 30% of the scholarships for each selection year are earmarked for female candidates.

Physical and Financial Achievements of the NOS scheme for the past 5 years are as under:

Financial Year	Budget Estimate (Rs. in crore)	Revised Estimate (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crore)	Number of students who availed NOS
2020-21	20.00	30.00	32.92	71
2021-22	30.00	35.00	49.07	98
2022-23	36.00	50.00	86.59	98
2023-24	50.00	85.00	88.56	114
2024-25	95.00	95.00	74.17	79

National Fellowship for SC students (NFSC)

The objective of the scheme is to provide fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students belonging to SC category to pursue higher studies leading to Ph.D. in Science, Humanities and Social Science in Indian Universities / Institutions/Colleges recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC). The Scheme provides 2000 new slots every year (500 for Science stream and 1500 for Humanities and Social Sciences) to such SC students who have qualified the National Eligibility Test-Junior Research Fellowship (NET-JRF) of UGC or UGC-Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (UGC-CSIR) NET-JRF joint test. These slots are over and above the number of SC students selected under the normal reservation policy of the Government for UGC Fellowships.

Physical and Financial Achievements of the NFSC Scheme for the past 5 years are as under:

Financial Year	Budget Estimate (Rs. in crore)	Revised Estimate (Rs. in crore)	Fund Released (Rs. in crore)	Number of SC students who availed NFSC
2020-21	300.00	125.00	133.10	3961
2021-22	300.00	125.00	127.85	3706
2022-23	173.00	159.00	134.07	3608
2023-24	163.00	188.00	199.82	4166
2024-25	188.00	212.00	209.50	4143

(c) No such scheme is under consideration. However, Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC students is for all recognized courses including the medical education provided the students belongs to SC category and as per the scheme guidelines. Moreover, the scheme is open ended and demand driven.
